

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

HOGAN & HARTSON
L.L.P.

ORIGINAL

DAVID L. SIERADZKI
PARTNER
(202) 837-8482
DLSIERADZKI@HHLAW.COM

COLUMBIA SQUARE
555 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-1109
TEL (202) 637-5600
FAX (202) 637-5910
WWW.HHUUW.COM

November 27, 2002

RECEIVED

NOV 27 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary

Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: ***Ex Parte*** Presentations - Federal-State Joint Board on
Universal Service, **CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Western Wireless Corp. ("Western Wireless"), I am writing to inform you of several oral *ex parte* presentations regarding issues raised in the Referral Order, FCC 02-307, released Nov. 8, 2002, in the docket listed above. Gene DeJordy and Jim Blundell of Western Wireless made presentations to a number of members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and staff members: (1) Chairman Lila A. Jaber of the Florida Public Service Commission and Greg Fogleman of her staff (November 10); (2) Commissioner G. Nanette Thompson, Chair of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (November 11); (3) Commissioner Bob Rowe of the Montana Public Service Commission (November 12); (4) Commissioner Thomas J. Dunleavy of the New York Public Service Commission and Carl Johnson of his staff (November 12); and (5) Joel Shifman of the Maine Public Utilities Commission staff (November 11).

Western Wireless made many points that have been presented in written comments, reply comments, and *ex partes* previously filed in this docket by Western Wireless and/or the Competitive Universal Service Coalition. The attached fact sheet was also handed out.

2

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Marlene H. Dortch
November 27, 2002
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Sieradzki".

David L. Sieradzki
Counsel for Western Wireless Corp.

Enclosure

Federal USF Facts

(all figures are based on the Q4 2002 Quarterly Report of the
Universal Service Administrative Company and are based on projected annual figures)

Total High Cost FUSF Distributions

- The total annual distribution from the High Cost Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) is \$3.2 billion.
- Total distributions from the FUSF have grown 65.5% over the most recent four-quarter period, from \$1.93 billion to \$3.2 billion.

Growth in Total Loops

- In the same one year period, the total number of loops nationwide has only grown .31%, or by 585,029, from 188,497,455 to 189,082,484.

Compare to Competitive ETCs

- Competitive ETCs account for just 2.33% of all FUSF distributions, and has grown from \$8.32 million to \$74.45 million in the last year.
- The number of competitive ETCs has grown from 23 to 60 in one year.

Growth Attributable to Competitive ETCs

- Although total distributions to competitive ETCs has grown over the last year as the number of competitive ETCs has grown, the growth in distributions from the FUSF over the past year attributable to competitive ETCs (\$66 million) is only 5.22% of the total growth in distributions from the fund over the same period (\$1.267 billion). Nearly 95% of the overall growth in distributions from the FUSF is attributable to incumbent LECs.